GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1007
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004
RE-OPENING CONSULTATES BY INDIA-PAKISTAN
Satpathy Shri Tathagata;Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed in principle to re-open their consulates in Karachi and Mumbai ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of the likely impact on Visa-seekers ;

(d) whether both countries have also agreed to restore the staff strength of their respective High Commissions in New Delhi and Islamabad ;

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

(f) whether any time frame has been fixed for re-opening the two consulates; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) to (c) In the Joint Statement issued on June 28, 2004 after the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan, it was agreed in principle to re-establish India`s Consulate General in Karachi and Pakistan`s Consulate General in Mumbai. This would further facilitate the issuing of visas.

(d) & (e) During the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan on June 27-28, 2004 in New Delhi, it was agreed that the strengths of the respective High Commissions would be restored to the original level of 110.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.